



Rich DelGrosso and Jonn Del Toro Richardson "Time Slips On By"

Although it is still early in the new year (Mid January 2011), there has still been over a half a dozen really good Albums that have come across my desk for review, including 2 brilliantly unique ones, Sleepy Eyes Nelson & Craig Hughes "Graveyard Full Of Blues" and Rich DelGrosso and Jonn Del Toro Richardson "Time Slips On By".

Rich DelGrosso and Jonn Del Toro Richardson are no strangers when it comes to their style of music, as both are highly acclaimed Artists.

Rich DelGrosso's forte is his love and mastery of the Mandolin, not an instrument you would expect to be listed amongst a Blues artists Repertoire, but one that he has managed to slip into his interpretation of the Blues, to perfection. Other credits that Rich has added to his extensive resume are that of Writer, Teacher, and Performer. Those talents have not gone unnoticed as he has already managed to garner 5 Blues Music Award Nominations and a Keeping the Blues Alive Award, for his continuing education of the Mandolin, via workshops throughout the States and abroad. Rich has also been referred to as being, "the greatest living blues mandoman".

Jonn Del Toro Richardson's forte is his love and mastery of the blues guitar especially in the style of Texas Blues. Jonn learned his craft at a young age, with inspiration from his uncles, for whom he even played with in a band for awhile. His love and gratitude for "his mother's heritage and his uncles inspiration", led him to something that not many men do, and that was to legally change his name to his mothers family name and becoming as he is now referred to, "Jonn Del Toro Richardson, The Texas Bull". As with Rich DelGrosso, accolades have also been heaped on Jonn Del Toro Richardson with Awards at both the International Blues Challenge and the Blues

Music Awards, in partnership with "Diunna Greenleaf and his role in the Blue Mercy Blues Band". An additional recent collaboration with Diunna Greenleaf "as part of the backing band for Pinetop Perkin's recording on "Last of the Delta Mississippi Blues Man" won a Grammy Award in 2008 for Best Traditional Blues Album".

Now with "Time Slips On By", these respective masters have now joined forces to bring us one of the more unique partnerships to have graced the blues scene in quite awhile.

"Time Slips On By" consists of 14 Tracks with Rich DelGrosso getting the sole credit for 7 songs and Jonn Del Toro Richardson getting sole credit for 6 songs. They both share credit on 1 song, which is the opening track "Baby Do Wrong". "Time Slips On By" clocks in at over 63 minutes, which shows not only their talent for writing music but also their respect for their fans via giving them an album of exceptionally decent length.

Joining DelGrosso and Richardson on this Album are Carl Owens (Drums and Percussion), Ed Starkey (Bass), Joel Guzman (Accordion), The Texas Horns consisting of Mark "Kaz" Kazanoff (Tenor Sax), John Mills (Baritone Sax), and Al Gomez (Trumpet). Now you would think that would be all the talent you would possible need for a great Album and in most cases you would be right. "Time Slips On By" however is not just an average Album hence, the additional Artists by the names of Sonny Boy Terry (Harmonica) and for Background Vocals on the Track "A Gig, Is A Gig", we have none other than the amazing Fiona Boyes.

"Time Slips On By" starts off in fine Texas Blues tradition, Guitar and Mandolin just a blazing. A wonderful opening track that sets the stage for the rest of the Album to a perfect tee, especially the way that they tradeoff shining in the spotlight as Rich and Jonn brings their own special mix to the party with each others songs, which by the way are pretty well switched with each track, creating a wonderfully textured and varied Album. All and all it is just an amazing treat to see their two unique styles both separately as well as together, take center stage, and as if that isn't enough, lets not forget all the other fine players getting into the mix, as well. From Soulful Mandolin Blues, to Texas Blues, Boogie Blues and Beyond, "Time Slips On By" has it all and blends it all together as best as any group of artists can.

As the name of this Album implies, Time does indeed Slip On By, but thanks to the efforts of these 2 gifted Artists, the passing of that time certainly can be extremely enjoyable for at least 63 minutes at a time.

As mentioned earlier, "Time Slips On By" is one of those Albums I have called brilliantly unique and is certainly an early contender in this years race towards well deserved accolades.

I give "Time Slips On By" my highest rating of 5*****. Certainly an Album to be talked about for 2011. Highly Recommended and Thoroughly Enjoyed...

Review By John Vermilyea (Blues Underground Network)

